



2004 Excellence in Practice Awards

October 20, 2003

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to announce a call for nominations for the newly revised ***Excellence In Practice Award***. This prestigious award, which was formerly presented at the Governor's Conference on Career Development, recognizes exemplary practices in preparing Michigan's students for careers. The 2004 awards will be presented during the opening session of the ***Michigan Career Education Conference*** on February 9, 2004, at DeVos Hall, adjacent to the Grand Center, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The theme of this year's conference is *Teaching and Learning for Excellence*. We expect that an excellent practice or program will be part of a comprehensive career education system, in which educators and their community partners collaborate to meet the challenges of preparing students for successful careers.

This award recognizes successful, sustained career preparation, state-approved career and technical education, and tech prep practices and programs that are outstanding in their demonstrated outcomes. **An excellent practice is one that demonstrates outstanding outcomes producing measurable results for students, meets the challenge of high academic rigor, leads to curriculum alignment and articulation with postsecondary partners, and/or provides exemplary postsecondary training for students with disabilities, while demonstrating highly effective and proven teaching and learning strategies that incorporate authentic instruction.**

Eligible nominations may be successful new initiatives or established programs at the building, local, intermediate school district, regional educational service agency, community college, or university level. Charter schools and trade academies are also eligible for consideration. Practices and programs still in development or not fully implemented will not be considered.

Recognizing the leadership role the Education Advisory Group (EAG) continues to play in career education leading to successful career and workforce preparation, award nominations will require a signature of the EAG chair indicating review and endorsement. The career initiative coordinator from each career initiative region may submit up to three nominations from the region. Application instructions and selection criteria are attached and will also be posted on our Web site, **www.michigan.gov/mdcd**. All nominations must be postmarked no later than **Friday, November 14, 2003**. Late submissions will not be considered or reviewed.

I encourage you to vigorously seek nominees from your area for this prestigious award. Please call Ms. Donna Beltz at (517) 373-8204 if you have any questions regarding the nomination criteria or need more information. I appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

Deb LaPine, Deputy Director
Career Education Programs